

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: LA WILSON

PRESENT POSITION

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: MAY 26, 1924 CORNING, New York

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: SCULPTURE

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.): MINIMAL

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

Solo Exhibitions

1992, Cl. Center for Cont. Art
1989, 88, & 86 John Davis Gallery, NY, N.Y.
1986 Akron Art Museum - 20 year Retrospective
1978 The Gallery, Kent State Univ., Kent, Oh

Group Exhibitions

1991 "The Invitational" - Cl. Mus. of Art
1990 "May Show"
1990 "Separate But Equal" Ohio Women Artists Nat'l Museum of Women in Arts, Wash. D.C.
1982 "Women in Art Today", Wooster Coll., Wooster, Ohio

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Public Collections

The Akron Art Museum, Akron, Oh
The Allen Art, Oberlin, Oh
The Weatherpoon Art Gallery, U. of N.C.
The Newark Museum, at Greensboro, N.J.

AWARDS:

1993 "May Show, Clv. Museum of Art
1967 44th Annual Juried Exhib., Akron Art Inst.
(3 honor awards)
1965 42nd Annual Spring Show, Ak. Art Inst.
1963 40th " " " " " "
1959 36th " " " " " "

Private Collections

Ammann, Thomas, Switzerland
Carr, Carolyn, Deputy Director,
Nat'l Portrait Gallery, Wash. D.C.
Gund, Agnes, Pres. MOMA
Held, Al + Monaghan, Kathleen, N.Y., N.Y.
Johnson, Ellen H., Professor, Art
Emeritus, Oberlin College
Krausarsky, Warner H., N.Y., N.Y.

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

First I collect - Anything that appeals for whatever reason - Then I try to free myself from conscious associations with the material so that the unconscious can take over - I am more interested in what I don't know than what I know - I especially enjoy finding quality in the left-overs of life and transforming the familiar -

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 90

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on May Show artists.

FULL NAME: La Wilson

PRESENT POSITION

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: May 26, 1924 - Corning, N.Y.

CATEGORY/PRIMARY MEDIA: Sculpture constructions

ART TRAINING (Schools, Scholarships, etc.):

very little

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN (include location and year):

- 1989-88-87 "LA WILSON" John Davis Gallery, New York, N.Y.
- 1987 "La Wilson/Metaphorical Objects, 20 year retrospective - Akron Art Museum
- 1986 "New work". John Davis Gallery, Akron, Ohio
- 1978 "Constructions" The Gallery, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
- 1989 - Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art -

COLLECTIONS THAT NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Akron Art Museum

Allan Art " , Oberlin, Oh

Weatherpoon Art Gallery, University of N. Carolina at Greensboro

Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey

AWARDS:

We would appreciate having a statement about your philosophy and work as an artist—either general or something specific about the piece(s) selected for this year's May Show to aid us in the preparation of gallery talks and in the release of publicity materials. For more space, use the back of this sheet.

(over)

My constructions are both a reflection of
and a reaction to my world + my life -
non-intellectual private visions - The
materials are included + organized because
of intuitive formal considerations + the simple
fact of their availability, not because of
their "meaning".

For me the work represents an ongoing process
of self-exploration -

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MAY 88

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

FULL NAME: La Wilson

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: May 26, 1924 Corning, N.Y.

PRIMARY MEDIA Constructions - Sculpture

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:

A two year experimental art course Taught by Leroy Flint -
former director of Akron Art Inst. - in 1958-59. Otherwise
self-taught -

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

Cleveland Museum of Art - May show
Akron " " - May shows
In Town Club - Cleveland
The Gallery - Kent State Univ.
Canton Art Institute

Groups shows at
Wooster College
Akron Public Library - Main Branch
Art Beach - Columbus
 Sylvia Ullman's - American
 Crafts - Cleveland

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

Akron Art Institute

AWARDS: Four Honor Awards at Ak. Art Inst. May shows

PRESENT POSITION:

Working artist

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.
Thank you for your cooperation.

May show file

La Wilson

Boxes--all sizes and shapes--provide the backdrop for the hallmark sculptures of LA WILSON. Recognized both regionally and nationally for her microcosmic environments, carefully constructed from small, everyday objects, Wilson has agreed to open her studio to our membership July 18.

A long-time resident of Hudson, Ohio, La Wilson delights in the charm and unexpected wit of the familiar and unpretentious--the castoffs of a diverse and complex culture. Within the confines of found metal and wooden boxes, Wilson creates extraordinary environments, utilizing such everyday items as marbles, popsicle sticks, toy cars, ice skates and wooden spoons and building blocks. Such everyday items are carefully arranged and positioned into unique patterns and motifs that reflect both the chaos and the order of today's world. Described variously as "mysterious," "whimsical," and "poetic," Wilson's constructions are easily compared to microcosms peopled by commonplace objects that not only retain a "personal" history, but also have acquired a new identity and meaning.

Originally from Corning, New York, La Wilson has had no formal training in art other than a two year stint at the Art Institute in Akron; yet, she rejects the title of either naive or folk artist, explaining that her work "is not innocent enough." She creates her "boxed" assemblages intuitively, sometimes working on as many as six different sculptures at the same time. And, she collects the "tools of her trade"--that is the myriad of found objects--in the same manner, never questioning how she will use the object or why she wants it, simply choosing the items that appeal to her.

Upon close scrutiny of Wilson's constructions, the viewer is prone to a psychoanalysis of its contents--or, at the very least, an attempt at storytelling. One's imagination is piqued by the artist's unusual juxtapositioning of seemingly unrelated objects viewed within the context of such titles as "Good Medicine," "Wet 'N Wild," "Transmutation," and "New York, New York."